

# Young Voice of the Party

## Frank Church

**T**HE keynote speaker at the forthcoming Democratic National Convention has forged his political career with an eloquent tongue and "a blazing smile."

Frank Church began speaking in public as a boy. At 16, he won a nation-wide American Legion oratory contest that brought him

**Man** a \$4,000 scholarship. The topic **in the** was "Our Way of **News** Life." In 1952, at the age of 28, he was the keynote speaker at the Idaho state Democratic convention. As a young lawyer, he taught public speaking at Boise State College for several years prior to his election to the Senate in 1956.

His speaking talents have also been recognized by the political opposition. Vice President Nixon picked the young Idahoan to read Washington's Farewell Address in the annual ceremony before the Senate on Feb. 21, 1958, the eve of Washington's Birthday.

Visiting Warsaw in 1959, Senator Church won the notice of Poles and resident Americans by his eloquence in speaking of the United States. One correspondent described him as "a sort of advertisement for zest."

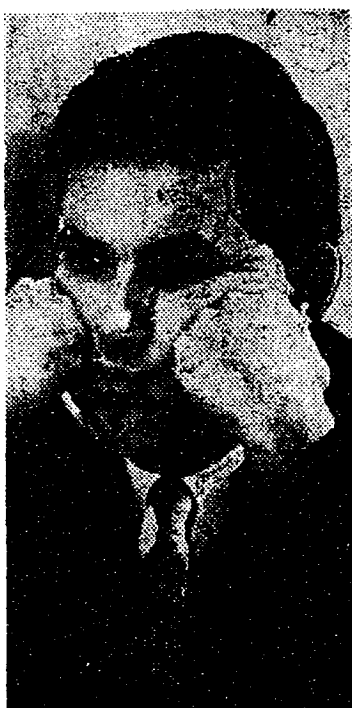
Born in Boise on July 25, 1924, the future Senator was named Frank Forrester Church Jr. Now he normally does not use his middle name or "Jr."

### Enlisted as Freshman

After winning the American Legion scholarship in his junior year at high school, he elected to go to Stanford University. The attack on Pearl Harbor occurred during his first semester, and he enlisted immediately in the infantry. He was commissioned a second lieutenant on his twentieth birthday and served in the China-Burma-India theatre as a combat intelligence officer.

At the end of the war, he returned to Stanford. He was graduated in 1947, a member of Phi Beta Kappa and married soon after receiving his diploma. After studying for a time at Harvard Law School, he returned to Stanford and took his law degree there in 1950.

Brought up in a Republican family, Senator Church says he talked himself into joining the Democratic party in the course of discussions with his father, a sporting goods dealer. He also married into a family long prominent in Democratic politics in Idaho. His wife, Bethine, is a daughter of Chase A. Clark, a Federal judge and former Governor. She is the niece of another former Governor and a



The New York Times (by George Tames)

*Often mistaken for a page*

cousin of the late Senator D. Worth Clark.

After losing a bid for the Idaho Legislature in 1952, the young lawyer entered the Democratic Senate race in 1956. His opponent in the primary was Glen H. Taylor, a former Senator and Henry A. Wallace's Vice-Presidential running-mate on the Progressive party ticket in 1948.

After a hard campaign, he won the primary by just 170 votes. In the general election, however, he defeated Senator Herman Welker handily, by some 50,000 of a total 250,000 votes, and became, at 32, the Senate's youngest member. He estimates that he shook 75,000 hands in the course of the campaign.

Senator Church campaigned for Federal development of power resources, a position he has maintained in the Senate. He has attacked the "creeping concealment" of public information.

Those who try to describe the Senator use such expressions as "blazing smile," "matinee idol looks" and "pink-cheeked youth."

Six feet tall and a trim 165 pounds, Senator Church has black hair and brown eyes. He looks ten years younger than he is—35. During his early days in Washington he was so often mistaken for a page boy by guards and fellow Senators that he gave up wearing navy blue suits and switched to brown.

The Churches have two sons, Forrester, 11, and Clark, 2. The Senator concentrates on work to the exclusion of hobbies but devotes such spare time as he has to the boys, playing ball or taking Forrester sight-seeing.